

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 28-30, 37, 40-43, and 45-67 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-7, 28-30, 37, 40-43, and 45-67 were rejected.

Claims 8-27, 31-36, 38-39 and 44 were previously cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-7, 28-30, 37, 40-43, and 45-67 is respectfully requested in view of the following.

The Objections To The Drawing Figures:

The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) for failing to illustrate the "expanded tubular members of claims 1 and 46."

As illustrated in new Figure 4, and described in the new paragraph added above, the tubular members 405 and 415 are threadably coupled and have been radially expanded. No new matter was added by the addition of new Figure 4, and the new description.

The drawings were also objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) for failing to illustrate one or more the features of claim 44. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 44 was canceled in Applicants' response filed May 20, 2003.

The Provisional Rejection of Claims 1-7 and 28-30 Under the Judicially Created Doctrine of Double Patenting:

Claims 1-7 and 28-30 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting. Applicants respectfully traverse.

The present application 09/679,906, was filed on October 5, 2000. The Examiner cited co-pending application 10/331,718, which was filed on December 20, 2002 as a divisional application of the present application. Applicants respectfully submit that the judicially created doctrine of double pending does not apply in this situation. 35 U.S.C. §121 states that a divisional application may not be cited against

the parent application as a matter of law,

“A patent issuing on an application with respect to which a requirement for restriction under this section has been made, or on an application filed as a result of such a requirement, shall not be used as a reference either in the Patent and Trademark Office or in the courts against a divisional application or against the original application or any patent issued on either of them, if the divisional application is filed before the issuance of the patent on the other application.” (35 U.S.C. §121, emphasis added).

The Rejection of Claims 1-7, 28-30, and 37-67 under 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 1-7, 28-30, 37, 40-43, and 45-67 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States patent number 6,409,175 issued to Evans in view of Jet-Lok product catalog and the applicant's disclosure of Jet-Lok on page 7 of the original application. Applicants respectfully traverse.

As an initial matter, the content of the applicant's original application cannot be prior art as a matter of law. Thus, for at least this reason, the rejection of claims 1-7, 28-30, 37, 40-43, and 45-67 should be withdrawn.

Furthermore, Evans does not include any disclosure or suggestion of the use of Jet-Lok sealant within the threads of coupled tubulars that are then radially expanded and plastically deformed. In fact, Evans explicitly **teaches against the use of a sealant on expandable threads**, “Threaded connections for oil field use mainly rely on three types of seals: either metal-to-metal shouldering seals or seals formed by engaged threads with high thread interference using thread compound to effect a seal in the void areas, or deformable seal rings entrapped in the thread area. All three seals of these types are disabled by the radial expansion caused by the pig. In each case, following the expansion of the pin and box, the pin and box members radially separate, causing the seals to fail.” (Evans, column 1, lines 50-58).

The Jet-Lok Product Descriptions likewise does not include any disclosure or suggestion of the use of Jet-Lok sealant within the threads of coupled tubulars that are then radially expanded and plastically deformed.

Thus, the combination of Evans and the Jet-Lok Product Descriptions does not

disclose or suggest the invention of any of claims 1-7, 28-30, 37, 40-43, and 45-67. Therefore, claims 1-7, 28-30, 37, 40-43, and 45-67 are in condition for allowance.

Furthermore, there is no motivation to combine Evans with the Jet-Lok Product Descriptions. In particular, as discussed above, Evans explicitly **teaches against the use of a sealant on the threads**, "Threaded connections for oil field use mainly rely on three types of seals: either metal-to-metal shouldering seals or seals formed by engaged threads with high thread interference using thread compound to effect a seal in the void areas, or deformable seal rings entrapped in the thread area. All three seals of these types are disabled by the radial expansion caused by the pig. In each case, following the expansion of the pin and box, the pin and box members radially separate, causing the seals to fail." (Evans, column 1, lines 50-58). Thus, there is no motivation to combine Evans with the Jet-Lok Product Descriptions.

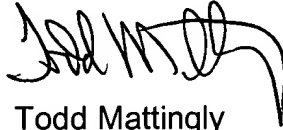
Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claims 1-7, 28-30, 37, 40-43, and 45-67.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are drawn to novel subject matter, patentably distinguishable over the prior art of record. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to reconsider and allow claims presented for reconsideration herein. To the extent that the present amendment results in additional fees, the Applicant authorizes the Commissioner to charge deposit account no. 08-1394.

Should the Examiner deem that any further amendment is desirable to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,



Todd Mattingly
Registration No. 40,298

Dated: 2/19/2004
HAYNES AND BOONE, L.L.P.
1000 Louisiana Street
Suite 4300
Houston, Texas 75002-5012
Telephone: 713-547-2301
Facsimile: 713-547-2600
File: 25791.37.02

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<u>Stacy Lanier</u>
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<u>Stacy Lanier</u>
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